

In the specification:

[0022] While the portion of the shaft of each instrument between the proximal end thereof and the short enlarged continuously tapered working length thereof is generally smooth, it can optionally include cutting edges thereon for the purpose of engaging a root canal which is curved to assist in widening the root canal. Further, the portion of the ~~shank~~ shaft described above can have an increasing diameter from the working length to the proximal end thereof to thereby increase the flexibility of the ~~shank~~ shaft.